

1884

# Annual Reports of the Municipal Officers and the Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Fairfield, for the Year Ending February 20, 1884

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ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS  
AND  
SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,  
OF THE  
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
FEBRUARY 20, 1884.



FAIRFIELD:  
BENJ. BUNKER, STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.  
1884.

# REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

## ASSESSORS' DEPARTMENT.

Amount of money raised at the annual meeting, March, 1883:

For Support of Schools.....	\$3,500 00	
“ “ “ Poor.....	1,500 00	
“ Incidental Expenses, Roads and Bridges..	2,500 00	
“ County Tax.....	1,487 38	
“ State Tax.....	5,162 39	
“ Tax in School District No. 16.....	200 00	
	<hr/>	\$14,349 77

Valuation made April 1, 1883:

Real Estate.....	\$702,880 00	
Personal Estates.....	390,010 00	
Total.....	<hr/>	\$1,092,890 00
Assessed 12 mills on \$1. on \$1,092,890 00....	\$13,114 68	
“ 835 polls at \$2.00 each.....	1,670 00	
“ 68 dogs at \$1.00 each.....	68 00	68 00
Committed deficient highway tax.....	92 11	92 11
Overlaid in assessing.....		634 91
Assessed on School District No. 16.....	204 78	
Overlaid in assessing.....		4 78
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total amount committed for collection...\$15,149 57 \$15,149 57

## DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Expenses of the poor in the town not on the town farm:

Paid for Tallis Daniels.....	\$ 5 56
“ Eliza Burrill.....	40 49
“ Asa Perkins, of Weld.....	14 25
“ George Delaware, for supplies.....	5 48
“ John Langware, “.....	1 48
“ Thomas Libby, “.....	34 96
“ Augustus Hoxie, “.....	22 00
“ Isaac Newton, house rent.....	24 00
“ Sylvester Ranco, supplies.....	16 50
“ Andrew Pooler “.....	6 00
“ F. J. Robinson for doctoring Mrs. Bessey	15 75

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.—*Continued.*

Paid for George Ranco, Waterville.....	6 00	
“ Mary Perry and children.....	34 66	
“ Mary Burgess and children.....	48 53	
“ Randall Tuttle, Athens.....	20 12	
“ Nicholas Marcia, supplies and house rent	53 64	
“ Mrs. Quimby.....	1 50	
“ Edwin Clair, Van Buren.....	6 00	
“ Charles Mabry, medical attendance Mr. Knox.....	4 50	
“ Charles Sturgis, coffin for poor.....	8 00	
“ Robert Tobey for support of Clara Tobey	47 60	
“ Charity children, Oldtown.....	8 32	
“ Frank Labby, for supplies.....	14 50	
“ Charles Gilblair, for supplies.....	9 50	
“ coffin and robe for Wesley Cannon.....	12 25	
“ F. P. Wing, three coffins for poor.....	24 00	
“ Mary Fellows and children.....	56 50	
“ F. J. Robinson, doctoring Polite Grevoise	12 50	
		\$554 59
Expenses of poor out of town:		
Paid China for Samuel B. York.....	\$25 14	
“ “ “ Wellington W. York.....	70 04	
“ “ “ Henry F. York.....	12 64	
“ Bucksport, for Wm. H. Hubbard.....	55 61	
“ “ “ “ “ 1882.....	57 94	
“ Canaan, for Joseph Whitney.....	16 85	
“ Etna, for aid Lawrence children.....	20 56	
		\$258 78
Expenses of poor on town farm to Feb. 20, 1884:		
To amt. of provisions and stock, Feb. 20, 1883..	\$834 90	
“ Wm. Tibbetts and wife for oversight of farm..	275 00	
“ F. J. Savage, for corn, meal, &c.....	97 35	
“ G. H. Pishon & Co., for groceries.....	127 49	
“ Allen & Totman, for hardware.....	22 85	
“ Edbert Kelley, dry goods and boots.....	34 00	
“ Suell Pratt, for hardware.....	2 94	
“ Nahum Tozier, for oxen.....	160 00	
“ H. P. Green, for blacksmithing.....	4 60	
“ G. A. Savage, for groceries.....	10 90	
“ supplies bought and paid for by Mr. Tibbetts	259 96	
		\$1,829 99
By amt. of stock, provisions, &c., on hand Feb. 20, 1884:		
“ 1 pair of oxen.....	\$175 00	
“ 5 cows.....	200 00	
“ 1 heifer, 2 years old.....	20 00	
“ 1 heifer, 1 year old.....	10 00	
“ 20 tons of hay.....	185 00	
“ 1 horse.....	50 00	



DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.—*Continued.*

By 3 swine .....	15 00	
" 30 hens .....	20 00	
" 1 mowing machine .....	25 00	
" 1 ox cart, 30; 1 truck wagon, 30 .....	60 00	
" 1 Tiger horse rake, 30; 1 O. K. plow, 12 .....	42 00	
" 1 Cates cultivator, 10; 1 buggy wagon .....	20 00	
" 1 horse sled, 15; 2 plows, 10 .....	25 00	
" 6 doz. eggs, 1.80; 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ bushels beans, 10 .....	11 80	
" straw and carpenters' tools .....	15 00	
" 20 bushels oats .....	10 00	
" 100 bushels potatoes .....	30 00	
" 800 lbs. of pork .....	95 00	
" 10 galls. molasses 5.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. pickles, 4.50 .....	9 50	
" 150 lbs. of ham, 18; 15 lbs. butter, 4.50 .....	22 50	
" 10 galls. vinegar, 3.00; 2 bbls. flour, 13.50 .....	16 50	
" 75 lbs. of lard, 7.50; 12 lbs. tallow, 1.00 .....	8 50	
" 60 lbs. cheese, 7.80; 3 lbs. of tea, 1.50 .....	9 30	
" 70 galls. soap, 10.50; sugar, 1.00 .....	11 50	
" 15 lbs. dried apples, 1.40; coffee, 40 .....	1 80	
" butter, cheese and eggs, sold by Mr. Tibbetts .....	75 12	
" 20 bushels oats, " " .....	11 00	
" 1 cow, " " .....	53 00	
" 2 calves, " " .....	9 75	
" hay, " " .....	72 98	
" beef, " " .....	9 11	
" 5 cords of bark, " " .....	26 00	
" 1 cow's hide, " " .....	3 00	
" cash in hands of Mr. Tibbetts .....	27 30	
" cash paid into the treasurer, work of F. J. Hoxie .....	81 63	
" Expenses of poor on town farm .....	372 70	
		\$1,829 99
Expenses of the poor on town farm .....	\$372 70	
" " " out of town .....	258 78	
" " " in town, not on the farm .....	554 59	
Balance not drawn .....	313 93	
		\$1,500 00

Amount raised at March meeting for support of poor, \$1,500 00.

Number of weeks board of poor, 711; expenses per week, 52 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents. Number of weeks board, including the family of the overseer of the farm, 815; expense per week, 45 $\frac{2}{3}$  cents.

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES OF THE TOWN TO FEB. 20, 1884.

Paid A. H. Duren for services as Selectman, Assessor and overseer of the Poor, ...	\$175 00
" D. C. Hall, for services as Selectman, As- sessor and Overseer of the Poor .....	175 00

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.—*Continued.*

Paid C. J. Greene, for services as Selectman, As-		
sessor and Overseer of the Poor.....	160	00
“ Geo. G. Weeks, for services as Moderator.....	5	00
“ A. B. Allen, Supervisor of Schools.....	40	00
“ E. G. Pratt, services as Treasurer .....	25	00
“ Hiram E. Tuck, commissions for collecting		
taxes .....	454	48
“ Hiram E. Tuck, services as Constable....	30	50
“ F. E. McFadden, Clerk and transcribing		
records.....	33	14
“ G. M. Twitchell, for Auditor.....	5	00
“ damage and cost on Mahalath Gifford road	87	38
“ F. E. McFadden, surveying Bridge Street,		
as per bills .....	12	00
“ E. W. McFadden, blank book for marriages	8	00
“ Martin stream bridge.....	190	50
“ bridges over mill pond at Fairfield.....	1,116	72
“ highways and culverts.....	398	60
“ E. W. McFadden, fees in Lizzie Woodman		
case.....	16	70
“ A. S. Pease, for use of hall and feeding		
tramps .....	43	00
“ Insane Hospital, for Ed. Frost.....	125	42
“ Allen & Atwood, printing town report....	25	00
“ F. J. Robinson, doctoring poor.....	25	00
“ F. J. Savage, labor on bridge.....	5	00
“ S. H. Blackwell, blank books, &c.....	16	04
“ Edward J. Fuller, as per bill.....	3	60
“ J. W. Channing, painting signs.....	3	00
“ A. E. Lawrence, land damage on Bridge		
Street.....	1,200	00
“ Allen & Totman, for oil, etc., for lighting		
bridge .....	27	40
“ George N. Colby, as per bill.....	25	50
“ commitment of Joseph Kendall to insane		
Hospital.....	16	30
“ Joseph Blunt, land damage on Bridge St...	750	00
“ S. C. Mullin, office rent.....	32	50
“ D. C. Hall, money paid out as per bill....	28	25
“ F. E. Stevens, part pay for doctoring poor.	15	00
“ A. H. Duren, cash paid out as per bill....	5	60
“ expense on bridge pier to date.....	376	49
		<hr/>
		\$5,656 02

## COLLECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

“ Hiram E. Tuck, to the Town of Fairfield, Dr.:	
To tax bills committed in 1883.....	\$14,944 79
“      of School District No. 16.....	204 68
	<hr/>
	\$15,149 47

COLLECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.—*Continued.*

	CR.	
By County Treasurer's receipt.....	\$1,487	38
State Treasurer's receipt.....	5,162	39
Town Treasurer's receipt.....	8,499	70
	<hr/>	\$15,149 47

## TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

E. G. Pratt, in account with the Town of Fairfield:

	DR.	CR.
1883.		
Feb. 20. To cash on hand.....	\$3,910	13
Apr. 3. cash, Sarah J. Frost.....	20	00
May. bill taxes, H. E. Tuck, collector, 8,295	02	
" bills School District No. 16....	204	68
July. cash paid by Mrs. Bessey.....	15	75
town of St. Albans.....	4	00
Augusta.....	2	96
Oakland.....	4	50
1884.		
Jan. cash, State school fund and mill tax	1,454	90
cash State railroad and telegraph		
tax.....	5	40
cash of State pension office.....	60	00
Feb. cash for labor, Fred Hoxie....	81	63
cash of Grand Isle.....	12	00
cash of town of Athens.....	11	00
cash of John York.....	3	00
cash of Sarah J. Frost.....	51	55
	<hr/>	\$14,136 52
1883.		
Dec. 31. By tax returned, O. Woodman, in		
suit.....		\$115 20
By cash paid O. W. Chamberlain,		
State pension.....		36 00
By cash paid Roxanna Reynolds,		
State pension.....		24 00
1884.		
Feb. By town orders turned over to		
selectmen.....		13,860 02
By balance in treasury.....		101 30
		<hr/>
		\$14,136 52

## UNSETTLED BILLS OF 1882.

Paid Allen & Atwood, for printing report.....	\$25	00
" Town of Canaan, Joseph Whitney.....	16	85

UNSETTLED BILLS.—*Continued.*

Paid A. S. Pease, rent of hall and feeding tramps	43	00
“ F. J. Robinson, balance doctoring poor....	25	00
“ Town of Bucksport, Wm. H. Hubbard.....	57	94
“ Joseph Nye, labor on highway.....	4	00
“ damage and cost on Mahalath Gifford road.	87	38
	<hr/>	\$259 17
Amount estimated, \$250.00; underestimated, \$9.17.		

## FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN, FEB. 20, 1884.

## LIABILITIES.

Unpaid orders drawn.....	168	03
Due school districts.....	727	87
Free High School.....	130	00
F. E. Stevens, balance medical services....	15	00
W. H. Tibbetts and wife, for oversight of farm.....	275	00
Note due Cynthia C. Priest.....	50	00
Contingent bills, estimated.....	410	00
	<hr/>	1,775 90

## RESOURCES.

By cash in treasury.....	101	30
due from town of Weld.....	14	25
Waterville.....	6	00
Athens.....	9	50
Grand Isle.....	2	50
land occupied by Stephen York.....	175	00
notes given by Edward Emery.....	267	40
due from the State, Joseph Kendall case....	100	00
estate of Orrin Woodman.....	115	20
town debt, Feb. 20, 1884.....	984	75
	<hr/>	1,775 90

A. H. DUREN,	}	Selectmen, Assessors
D. C. HALL,		and
C. J. GREENE,		Overseers of Poor.

## REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS.

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The Supervisor of Schools, in this annual report, presents the condition of the schools during the past year, and the success or failures, in any part of the school work, attending the efforts of the teachers employed in the different districts. The schools, and the work done, have been freely criticised, in visiting them, and the suggestions have been, for the most part, well carried out. In the few failures, or partial failures, in any part of the school work, the cause has been due either to the inexperience of the teacher or to some local difficulties. The foolish practice of carrying local troubles or personal animosities into school affairs cannot be too severely censured. In one case, an affair that happened about twenty years ago, was brought up at a school meeting, as the ground for excluding scholars from an adjacent district. The vote to exclude them was taken, after three pupils in the former district had received twenty-one weeks' school in the adjacent district. In another district, a man, on account of some wrong, real or imagined, has refused for several years to patronize the school in his own district, and periodically moves into an adjoining one. No person should allow local or personal feuds to interfere with their school affairs, because the injury, in every case, falls upon the children.

The average attendance throughout the town is several per cent. higher than last year, and the village schools take a fair share of this increase. There have been 246 instances of pupils who have not been absent or tardy for a single half day, and 195 of these are found in the village schools. The highest average attendance of any school in town, is found in the summer term in No. 13, and is  $98\frac{2}{3}$  per cent.; the next is 97  $\frac{11}{12}$  per cent., in the winter term in No. 3. The highest in the village schools is 97  $\frac{1}{7}$  per cent., in the winter term of the South Intermediate. Several others have an average considerably above ninety. The lowest is  $68\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., in the winter term in No. 17, the cause of which was a cold and uncomfortable school-house.

The teachers have worked well to keep their pupils in school, and the truants have generally been looked after by us. Several scholars who have not been in the habit of attending school, have been furnished with books and kept in school most of the year.

#### SCHOOL HOUSES.

A new house was built in No. 16, last fall, in accordance with a vote of the town at the last annual meeting. The work was done under contract, by Mr. Marshall Bates. The school-room is pleasant and commodious, but was not properly finished for school purposes, for there are no shelves to the desks for books, nor black-boards, which are very essential for good school work. The committee were given to understand, in accepting the house, that those things would be done, and hence accepted it as a matter of accommodation to the builder. The windows were not fixed so as to let down at the top, but this has since been done by the agent. The school-room is easily kept warm with a small amount of fire, and the pupils are kept comfortable without being at the stove half of the time, which has been something unknown for the past few years. Good black-boards, and shelves to the desks, should be put in before the commencement of another term. A new school-house should be built in No. 17, the coming year, for the one now in use is not only a disgrace to the district, but to the town. Two or three meetings have been called by the district, and we hope, ere this, that some definite action has been taken in regard to building a new house. The houses in Nos. 13 and 5 cannot be said to be a very flattering advertisement, either to the district or the town. An outlay in repairs, of \$75 or \$100 upon each, would place the houses in good shape, well supplied with modern school furniture and attractive to the pupils. If some arrangement could be made so that Nos. 6 and 7 could be harmoniously united and have a good house to accommodate both, it would be much better than to make any repairs upon the house in No. 6, and would be a benefit to both schools. In regard to Nos. 13 and 6, it is hoped that this reference will be sufficient to cause the inhabitants in those districts to take some action, at their next annual meeting, looking toward extensive repairs the coming season. In No. 13, the house was not in suitable condition for use, the past winter, and a room in a private dwelling has been used for a school-room. In some of the other districts, there is need of repairs and school furniture. In No. 10, new black-boards are much needed, the present ones being unfit for use. In No. 2, the Primary room needs new and larger boards,

and also other school furniture, which would be beneficial to teacher and pupils. Outline maps, charts and globes are much needed in all of the rural districts, and something of this kind should be purchased each year, and in two or three years the wants of the schools in this direction would be supplied.

#### TEXT BOOKS.

There is a uniformity of text-books in town so far as common studies are concerned, and pupils are well supplied. Several have been furnished with books during the year, at the expense of the town, for it is almost useless for scholars to attend school unless properly supplied. Payson, Dunton & Scribner's writing books have been exchanged for the Business Standard System of Penmanship, published by Copperthwait & Co., without extra charge to the pupils. These books are considered an improvement on the old ones and are used in the adjoining towns, so that they are gradually creeping into the rural schools from those towns. Swinton's Language Lessons have been introduced into the Intermediate Schools and on the promotion of the class at the close of next year, will be used by the second class in the Grammar School. The book will be placed in the first classes in the Intermediate schools at the commencement of next term. It has been used for oral instruction during the past term and a half in these classes. Barnes' Popular Drawing Series have been introduced into the Primary and Intermediate schools for use the coming year. The design is to have the books used in the schools at Somerset, and the Language Lessons to be placed in the hands of all pupils commencing the study of Grammar in both the village and rural schools. The book is well arranged to advance the pupil, and makes the study of language interesting, and the results of its use thus far have been most satisfactory.

#### DISTRICT NO. 1.—G. W. Norton, Agent.

*South Primary.* Miss Edith M. Hodgkins, who taught the school so successfully last year, taught the spring term. But before the commencement of the fall term, resigned to accept the North Intermediate. Whole attendance, fifty-nine; average, fifty-two.

The fall and winter terms were taught by Miss May O. Gibson, of Fairfield. The school under her instruction has done its usual good work. The phonic method of spelling was used during last term, in a class of twenty-five small scholars, in the chart primer, with most satisfactory results. The pupils give the sounds of the vowels and

consonants readily, and pronounce their words by combining those sounds. They sound and pronounce all new words which they cannot pronounce at sight. Whole attendance during the fall term, sixty-one; with an average of fifty-one. Winter term, forty-six, with an average of thirty-eight. February 1st, thirteen pupils were promoted to South Intermediate.

*Centre Primary.* Miss L. Belle Turner, of Waterville, has had charge of this school during the year, and has done effective work. The pupils were ready with answers upon any of their work. Many things of a general character were taught, which served to make the pupils more interested in their work. Attendance during the year, thirty-four; with an average of twenty-eight. February 1st, ten pupils were promoted to the Intermediate schools.

*North Primary.* Miss Hattie Snell has had charge of this school during the year. She has been a teacher in the primary schools for the past three years. She has labored faithfully for success, and the result of her labors here have been gratifying. The work during the past year has in some respects been difficult, but these difficulties have been well met and overcome, as was shown by the good work of the school at the close of the year. Much care was also given to the pronouncing and defining of words used by the pupils. Whole attendance during the year, fifty-one; average, forty-two. February 1st, fourteen pupils were promoted to the North Intermediate.

The discipline in the primary schools is about the same. In each the pupils are orderly, and whispering during school hours is almost unknown; the rule is to keep them busy while in the school room, and when they get weary with their regular work, or uneasy, marching, singing, etc., are in order for a few moments; this rests them and they return to their work with renewed interest. Those promoted to the Intermediate schools, completed their work in good shape, and the average for the three schools was about the same. More work has been required of them this year than last; the requirements are the three small numbers in the Standard System of Penmanship, Monroe's Third Reader, and Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic to fractions as equivalents. Thirty-seven were promoted this year, against thirty-one last year.

*South Intermediate.* Miss Annie M. Clarke had charge of this school last year, and also for the first fifteen weeks of the present school year, when she resigned to accept a more desirable position in the Green Grammar School, at Hyde Park, Mass. Her work has



been thorough and practical, and the standard of scholarship has been much improved under her instruction.

Miss Isa A. Baker, of Portland, has had charge of the school during the remainder of the year. She is a thorough teacher, and the pupils have manifested a marked degree of interest under her instruction. The work done by some of the classes during the year, is especially deserving of mention, particularly the classes in Mental Arithmetic, Primary Geography and oral Grammar; the latter has been taught only during the last fourteen weeks. Attendance during the year, thirty-three; average, thirty-one. February 1st, six were promoted to the Grammar School.

*North Intermediate.* Miss Linda Tuck had charge of this school last year, and also the first term of this year. During the summer vacation, she resigned her position to accept one in Battle Creek College, Battle Creek, Mich. She has given good satisfaction in school, and her resignation was received with regret.

Miss Edith M. Hodgkins, of Benton, has taught the school during the remainder of the year; she is an active, energetic teacher, and requires good work of her pupils. The class for promotion showed the character of their instruction by their thorough and analytical work and did much credit to themselves and teacher. Whole attendance forty-three; average, thirty-eight. February 1st, ten were promoted to the Grammar School.

The work in the Intermediate Schools was increased at the commencement of the year. The first class complete their arithmetic to percentage, instead of denominate numbers, and Warren's Brief Course in geography, as far as South America, in addition to the primary book. The second classes in both schools have taken only oral Grammar. Swinton's Language Lessons have been used by the teachers during the last fourteen weeks. It is the design to use in the future, this book in the Intermediate Schools, and also the first year in the Grammar School. From the two schools sixteen have been promoted to the Grammar School, and six were conditioned on some part of their work which they will make up during this vacation, and take their examination at the commencement of next term. This will give a class of twenty-two pupils, ten boys and twelve girls. Last year the class promoted, numbered twelve.

*Grammar School.* Miss Alice A. Sanborn, of Fairfield, has had charge of this school during the year, and excellent work has been the result of her labors. The pupils have been much interested in their school work, and have a good practical knowledge of their stud-

ies. Their work in penmanship is also commendable, and they can easily explain the different letters, giving height, angles, curves, etc., that enter into their formation. Miss Sanborn is a good disciplinarian and the standard of deportment in the school room and about the building has been much improved. The general exercises of the school have consisted of compositions, historical topics, quotations from leading authors, facts, etc. These exercises have required considerable reading on the part of the pupils, so that they have a good store of general knowledge, in addition to their usual school work. This grade has two classes, and with a very few exceptions, each class maintains a good average. The examination for promotion will occur March 5th. The class for promotion to the High school numbers sixteen; average attendance, during the year, twenty-nine.

The course in the Primary and Intermediate schools has been changed during the year and more work is now required of those classes before promotion. Hence the class promoted to the Grammar school, the present year, have done more work than former classes. The object of this change is to take U. S. History, the two last terms in the Grammar instead of the High school. The course as now arranged will enable the pupils to do this work easily in the Grammar school.

*High School.* Mr. L. H. Owen has had charge of this school during the past two years. His work last year was thorough, systematic and practical, and the results were most satisfactory. The grade of the school was much improved and, at the close of the year, any improvement in the line of discipline could hardly have been suggested. This work has been continued through the present year, and the results have been as satisfactory in the upper classes. In the lower class, on account of poor preparation on entering the school, the teacher has been compelled to labor at a disadvantage, and hence the results have not compared so favorably with the preceding class. During the last term, one of the studies of this class has been one of those belonging to the Grammar school. A portion of them could have taken profitably another year in the Grammar school; but were promoted on account of the small number in the High school at the commencement of the year. Mr. Owen is a thorough teacher, systematic in his work, and requires similar work of his pupils. A few of the scholars have been unable to do this kind of work, and hence have dropped back; others by staying out a term or more, have also been compelled to take the same course. When a pupil is admitted to the High school, that pupil should not be taken out for any trifling reason, which is too

often the case, and then when he returns, expect to go on with his classes and do good work. No pupil can do well in 80 or 100 days, work which requires from 160 to 170 days of careful study. No man would accept a job of work requiring 20 days of careful labor, if the job had been only half done by expending five or ten days upon it; the same reasoning applies to school work. No pupil can afford to be absent from any school, and least of all from a High school, where the work is more difficult, and each day's lesson is intimately connected with the preceding.

A more active public sentiment not only in regard to this school, but also in regard to all of the schools, and an earnest approval on the part of parents and friends of their rules and regulations is what is especially needed, and will be of great assistance to teachers and school officers in their work.

The classification of the school has been gradually improved, and was never better than during the present term, when there have been only eight recitations during the day, thus allowing a fair amount of time to each recitation.

The average of the school during the year has been twenty-five, and the largest number in attendance at any time, thirty-four. At the commencement of next term, twelve or more scholars will be received from the Grammar School, which will give forty or more in the High school for the coming year.

Three of the young ladies have completed in a very satisfactory manner, the English course, and will have their graduating exercises in the High school room, Friday P. M., March 7th. Next year the first class, numbering seven, will all be in the Classical course.

The examinations will occur March 6th and 7th, closing Friday noon.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.—C. M. Phillips, Agent.

*Primary School.* During the spring and fall terms, the school was under the instruction of Miss Florence M. Colcord, the same as last year. She has greatly improved the school, both in scholarship and classification, and her work has been of a practical character. At the close of the fall term, she resigned her position in this school to accept one in the Grammar School.

The winter term was taught by Miss Eva Osborne, a resident in the district. She is an active, energetic teacher, and did excellent work in the school. Average attendance during the year, twenty-two.

*Grammar School.* The spring and fall terms were taught by Miss

Beccie Irving, of Caribou. She is a thorough scholar, and required good work of her pupils. The school was under good discipline, and the final examinations showed a good amount of practical work. The pupils were ready with their answers, and in the board work could easily illustrate by original examples most any topic called up. Attendance during the spring term was fifteen, with an average of twelve; fall term, twelve, with an average of eleven.

The winter term was taught by Miss Florence M. Colcord, a resident of the district. She has taught this school several terms in the past, and was prepared to carry on the work of the preceding term, which she has done in a most satisfactory manner. Whole attendance, eighteen; average, fifteen.

At the commencement of the spring term, the first class in the Primary school was promoted to the Grammar on account of the inequality in numbers between the two schools. The grade in the two schools has been improved and made more systematic, so that the classes in both now number less than the classes in the Grammar school, three years ago. More time is given to recitations, and more thorough and systematic work has been the result. Greenleaf's Manual of Intellectual Arithmetic has been placed in the first class in the Primary school, and also in the lower classes in the Grammar school. The plan for the future is to have the first class complete this book to Division, before promotion. The results of such a course will be more satisfactory, and will prevent so much division of the classes, after entering the Grammar school.

#### DISTRICT No. 3.—James Nye, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Caddie Soule, of Fairfield. This was her first school. The instruction in the primary classes was good, but in the more advanced classes was not so practical or satisfactory. The lower reading classes made good improvement and those in Primary Arithmetic and Geography were able to give a good account of their work. Whole attendance, nineteen; average, fourteen.

The winter term, of sixteen weeks, is now in session, and is taught by Mr. M. K. Mabry, of Fairfield Centre. At the end of the eleventh week there was an intermission of two weeks. Mr. Mabry is a thorough, active teacher, and has succeeded in arousing an unusual degree of interest in his school. He has taken a great interest in his pupils, and has done much work with them outside of school hours. The results of his labors have been satisfactory. The school is also much

improved both in discipline and deportment. Whole attendance, during the first eleven weeks, twenty-four, with an average of twenty-three and five-tenths. The attendance since vacation is not so large.

DISTRICT NO. 4.—George H. Pishon, Agent.

There has been only one term of twelve weeks in this district, during the year. This was taught by Mr. G. C. Parker, of Clinton. He is a teacher of extensive experience, and taught one of the best schools in town. His instruction was thorough and practical, and his pupils at the close of the term, could handle their work in a clear and comprehensive manner. Ten pupils belonging in the district attended school and twenty-three from the Clinton side. These two districts arrange their terms so as to accommodate each other. The pupils thus get the benefit of the schools in both districts. Whole attendance, thirty-three; average, thirty-one.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—Richard Keith, Agent.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Wilder Colby, of Skowhegan. This was his first school. The discipline was good, but the instruction was not in every respect satisfactory. The text-book was too closely followed, and in some of the studies the pupils were deficient in a practical understanding of the work taken up. Whole attendance, twenty-two; average, sixteen and two-tenths.

The winter term is now in session, and is taught by Mr. Sheaff, of Skowhegan. He is a teacher of some experience, and is doing good work.

DISTRICT NO. 6.—A. B. Allen, Agent.

The summer term in this district was taught by Miss Lizzie R. Taylor, of North Fairfield. She has taught this school before, with satisfactory results. In this term her previous record was fully sustained. Whole attendance, ten; average, eight and six-tenths.

The winter term was taught by Miss Cora E. Butterfield, of Athens. She is a teacher of some experience, and did good work in the school. Whole attendance, thirteen; average, eleven.

The deportment in this school has improved very much during the past two years, and the standard of scholarship has also been raised. The change for the better has been made the subject of remark, not only by persons living in the district, but by persons who have known the school in the past. Uniting the two districts, as suggested, under No. 7, will give more money, enable the hiring of more experienced

teachers, and improve upon the standard already established. The same teacher should be employed in both districts.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—Sprague Taylor, Agent.

This district has had one term of ten weeks, during the year. This was taught by Miss Lizzie R. Taylor. The term was a profitable one. A good degree of interest was manifested, and the final examinations were very satisfactory. One of the pupils who has never attended school here since the building of the present house, until this term, was closely questioned and showed work which compared favorably with that done by scholars of a similar grade in larger schools. Hence it is difficult to see the point in the reasoning of a person so anxious to educate his children that he moves from his own district to another for the purpose of sending them to a term of nine weeks when he could send to one of ten in his own district, thus getting as good instruction and one more week of school.

The fall term was arranged to accommodate all of the scholars in the district, and also those in No. 6. Permission was given in the spring for the scholars in one district to attend the schools of the other, and the terms were arranged accordingly. This gave the pupils in the two districts twenty-seven weeks of school. Ten from No. 6, availed themselves of this opportunity and attended the schools in both districts. Another season, under this arrangement, would virtually unite the two districts, and give them from twenty-six to thirty weeks of school during the year.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—George Brawn, Agent.

The summer and winter terms were taught by Miss Cora M. Packard, of Canaan. Her work was quite satisfactory, and the school made good progress under her instruction. The attendance during the summer term was five, with an average of four and five-tenths; during the winter term, eight, with an average of seven and seven-tenths.

It would be well to put the scholars in this district into No. 9, during the summer school. In the winter, a portion of the money could be used in conveying scholars to school, if the distance is too far for the small ones to travel. This would give twenty-eight or thirty weeks of school during the year, instead of eighteen or nineteen, as now.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—W. J. Higgins, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Flora T. Lawrence, of Fairfield,

The pupils were prompt and regular in attendance, and did well under her instruction. Whole attendance, eleven, with an average of nine and nine-tenths.

The winter term was taught by Alice A. Richardson, of Clinton. Her school showed good work. The classes in arithmetic, analysis and history showed extra work, and were able to handle easily, and in a comprehensive manner the subjects given them. The class of little folks in fractions, exhibited a knowledge of their work, worthy of much older pupils. Whole attendance, eighteen, with an average of sixteen.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—Rodney Jones, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Etta Parker, of Oakland. She is an excellent disciplinarian and the school made good progress under her tuition. Whole attendance, twenty-five, with an average of twenty-two.

The fall term was taught by Mr. Albert P. Horn, of Smithfield. He is a thorough teacher and gave his pupils practical instruction. The recitations were conducted in part without the use of the text book, and were for the most part topical. The final examinations were very satisfactory. Whole attendance, twenty-eight; average, twenty-four and four-tenths.

Mr. Horn also taught the winter term, but the results were not so satisfactory as during the previous term. The pupils were not as enthusiastic in their work and the discipline was not quite up to the standard. There was, however, a marked change for the better during the last part of the term, both in discipline and in the interest manifested by the scholars.

The final work of the school was quite satisfactory, and on the part of some of the pupils, much above the average. Whole attendance, thirty-five, with an average of thirty-one.

DISTRICT NO. 11.—J. T. Richardson, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Ada E. Estes, of Waterville. She did good work and the school made fair improvement under her instruction. The school was under good discipline, and the final examination was satisfactory. The talent in this school ranks among the best in town, and the examinations in the upper classes have during the past three years compared favorably with the upper grades in the village schools. Whole attendance, nineteen; average, sixteen and five-tenths.

The winter term was taught by W. W. Whittier, a student from Colby University. The school opened with prospects favorable for a profitable term, but some trouble in regard to discipline, later in the term, interfered somewhat with the best interests of the school. His instruction was quite satisfactory. Whole attendance, twenty-four, with an average of twenty.

DISTRICT NO. 12.—William Wentworth, Agent.

The fall and winter terms were taught by Phebe Wing, of North Fairfield. She is an experienced teacher and has taught several terms in town with most satisfactory results. She fully sustained in this school her previous reputation, and did effective work both in instruction and discipline. During the last term whispering was almost entirely eradicated from the school, and much more and better work has been the result. The district has been fortunate not only in securing a teacher, but also in retaining her during the year, so that the school has experienced none of the disadvantages arising from the foolish practice of changing teachers every term. Whole attendance during the fall term, twenty-two, with an average of eighteen and four-tenths.

DISTRICT NO. 13.—E. N. Farnham, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Mary C. Allen, of Skowhegan. She is a thorough teacher, and did excellent work in the school. The recitations were for the most part topical, and the different subjects were taken up in a comprehensive manner. The pupils were enthusiastic in their work, and ready in their recitations. The whole attendance, eight; average, seven and nine-tenths.

The winter term is now in session and is taught by the same teacher, with as satisfactory results as last term. The whole attendance is ten, which is also the average thus far. This district has wisely retained the same teacher during the school year, and is beginning to realize the advantages arising from such a course.

DISTRICT NO. 14.—Isaiah Gleason, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Lena M. Richardson, of North Fairfield. She is an energetic teacher, and the school made good progress. The whole attendance was eight, with an average of seven and six-tenths.

The fall term was taught by Miss Relief Nelson, of Canaan. Her work was satisfactory, and the interest of the previous term was kept up. Whole attendance, nine, with an average of eight and five-tenths.



The scholars in this district, although few, make the most of their school. They are situated so far away from any other school, that it is difficult for them to attend elsewhere, or to be put with any other district. The extra money put in this district the past year has been well used.

DISTRICT NO. 16.—L. C. Bates, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Gertie Higgins, of Fairfield. This was her first school. She did fair work. The lower classes made good improvement. The instruction in the upper classes was not so practical, and hence not so satisfactory. The discipline was good and the attendance regular. Whole attendance, nine ; average eight.

The winter term is now in session, and is taught by Miss Annie L. Goodwin, of No. Fairfield. She is an experienced and successful teacher, and is doing good work in the school.

Since the summer term, a new and larger house has been built. The school room is light, pleasant and easily heated, but in some respects was not properly finished. No shelves were put in the desks for books, nor were any blackboards put up, which are essential things in a school room. This should have been done by the builder, as the understanding was that the house should be finished ready for school work.

DISTRICT NO. 17.—Obed W. Clark, Agent.

The winter term was taught by Miss Lillian C. Clarke, of Smithfield. She is a teacher of some experience, and the school made fair improvement under her instruction. Whole attendance, nine ; average eight.

The winter term was taught by Chas. Fletcher, of Starks. Although this was his first term of school, yet he showed himself an active teacher and required good work of his pupils. This was plainly seen in their written tests and examinations. Whole attendance, sixteen ; average, twelve.

The school house in this district is in very bad shape and it is difficult to keep the pupils comfortable in cold windy days. Two meetings were called last spring for the purpose of taking some action towards building a new house ; but no definite course was decided upon. A meeting has been recently called, and we hope some definite action has been, ere this, taken in regard to erecting a new house the coming year. If not, it is the duty of the town to take the matter in hand at the next annual meeting.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

The object of the High School is to furnish the pupils who have completed the studies prescribed for the Grammar School, with opportunities to pursue the higher branches. There are two courses of study, an English and Classical. A large proportion of the pupils take the latter course and many of them would go elsewhere if they could not pursue these studies here.

During the past year, some have advocated a more mixed school, forming classes to accommodate all who may want to enter the school. Such a course would be impracticable, for there would be so many classes that nothing satisfactory could be accomplished. The better the classification, the more systematic is the work and the more satisfactory are the results accomplished. It is poor reasoning to argue that a teacher with forty pupils of all ages and attainments, can do better work than with the same number well classified.

\*It would be well to change the High school into a Free High school, and make it free to all scholars in town having the requisite qualifications for entering the school. Some from the rural districts have made inquiries in regard to the school, and there are several pupils well prepared to commence the course and enter the second year. Such a change would give general satisfaction after it was once in successful operation, and the town would get \$250.00 from the state for school purposes. One hundred and six towns and districts in the state avail themselves of this boon, and get from \$35.00 to \$250.00 from the state for a Free High school. A large proportion of them raise the full amount and hence get the \$250.00. The state guarantees to any town or district raising for Free High school purposes, any amount up to \$250.00, an equal amount. Four towns and one district in this county have taken advantage of this, and run a Free High school. Skowhegan and Anson raise the full amount, and each receive \$250 from the state. This town pays her share of the money used by other towns and receives no benefit from the Free High school. A vote to raise \$250.00 for a Free High school will secure \$250.00 from the State. Such a course can hardly fail of being satisfactory. It has proved so in Skowhegan, Waterville, Bangor, Bath, Lewiston, Auburn, and numerous other large places.

The following are the present statistics of the schools, in tabular form:

No. of district and name of school.	Name of Teacher.	Term.	<i>Length of term in weeks.</i>	<i>No. Scholars registered</i>	<i>Average attendance.</i>	<i>Wages per week, including board.</i>	<i>Price of Board per week.</i>	<i>No. Scholars in dist.</i>	<i>School Money in each district.</i>
No. 1. So. Prim	Edith M. Hodgkins.	Spring.	9 50	52	57	50	2 50	500	\$2457.
"	Mary O. Gibson.	Fall.	11 61	54	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Winter.	9 46	38	7 50	2 50			
Centre Prim'y	L. Belle Turner.	Spring.	9 36	29	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Fall.	11 30	25	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Winter.	9 34	28	7 50	2 50			
North Primary	Hattie Snell.	Spring.	9 48	39	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Fall.	11 50	41	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Winter.	9 56	45	7 50	2 25			
So. Intermed.	Annie Clarke.	Spring.	9 32	29	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Fall.	6 31	23	7 50	2 50			
"	Isa A. Baker.	"	5 32	30	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Winter.	9 35	34	7 50	2 50			
No. Intermed.	Linda Tuck.	Spring.	9 46	41	8 00	3 00			
"	Edith M. Hodgkins.	Fall.	11 44	39	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Winter.	9 40	33	7 50	2 50			
Grammar,	Alice A. Sanborn.	Spring.	9 33	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 00	2 50			
"	"	Fall.	11 28	24	8 00	2 50			
"	"	Winter.	13 36	32	8 00	2 50			
High.	L. H. Owen.	Spring.	9 34	32	25 00	4 00			
"	"	Fall.	11 24	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 00	4 00			
"	"	Winter.	13 24	21	25 00	4 00			
No. 2. Prim'y.	Florence M. Colecord.	Spring.	10 31	24	6 00	2 00		92 499 58	
"	"	Fall.	12 27	23	7 00	2 00			
"	Eva O. Osborne.	Winter.	8 24	19	7 00	2 00			
Grammar.	Beccie Irving.	Spring.	10 15	12	7 50	2 50			
"	"	Fall.	10 13	11	7 00	2 50			
"	Florence M. Colcord.	Winter.	10 18	15	7 00	2 00			
No. 3.	Caddie Soule.	Summer	10 19	14	5 00	2 00		35 231 08	
"	M. K. Mabry.	Fall.	10 24	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 25	3 00			
"	"	Winter.	6 18		9 25	3 00			
No. 4.	G. C. Parker.	Fall.	12 33	31	10 58	2 00		16 130 93	
No. 5.	Wildor Colby.	"	10 22	17	7 00	2 00		22 158 26	
"	Lester Sheaff.	Winter.	12 24	20	7 00	2 00			
No. 6.	Lizzie R. Taylor.	Summer	8 10	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 50	1 50		15 103 07	
"	Cora E. Butterfield.	Winter.	9 13	11	5 50	2 00			
No. 7.	Lizzie R. Taylor.	Fall.	10 16	13	6 00	1 50		11 77 20	
No. 8.	Cora M. Packard.	Summer	7 5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 00	2 00		8 137 90	
"	"	Winter.	12 8	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 00	2 50			
No. 9.	Flora T. Lawrence.	Summer	8 11	9.9	6 00	1 75		24 158 75	
"	Alice A. Richardson.	Winter.	11 18	16	7 25	2 25			
No. 10.	Ettie Parker.	Summer	8 25	22	7 50	2 50		51 281 80	
"	Albert P. Horn.	Fall.	8 28	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 00	3 00			
"	"	Winter.	9 35	31	10 50	3 00			
No. 11.	Addie E. Estes.	Summer	9 19	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 00	2 00		31 174 50	
"	W. W. Whittier.	Winter.	11 24	20	7 50	2 50			
No. 12.	Phebe Wing.	Fall.	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ 22	18	6 00	2 00		23 166 96	
"	"	Winter.	10 18	15	7 25	2 25			
No. 13.	May C. Allen.	Summer	8 8	7.9	6 00	2 00		19 118 80	
"	"	Winter.	12 10	9.5	6 00	2 00			
No. 14.	Lena M. Richardson.	Summer	8 8	7.2	4 00	1 25		7 78 45	
"	Relief Nelson.	Fall.	10 9	8.5	4 00	1 50			
No. 15.								13 67 94	
No. 16.	Gertie Higgins.	Summer	9 9	8	5 25	2 00		24 147 79	
"	Annie S. Goodwin.	Winter.	12 13	11					
No. 17.	Lillian C. Clarke.	Summer	9 9	7.5	4 45	1 45		22 130 55	
"	Chas Fletcher.	Winter.	10 16	11	8 25	2 00			
No. 18.								2 10 40	

The above amounts represent the available money in each school district at the commencement of the present school year. Some of the districts overdrew their school money last year and others had a surplus. The amount overdrawn has been taken from, and the surplus added to, the money appropriated to respective school districts the present year.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. ALLEN, *Supervisor*.

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#### AUDITOR'S REPORT.

This is to certify that I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen of Fairfield for the year ending Feb. 20th, 1884, and find them properly vouched for and correct.

G. M. TWITCHELL, *Auditor*.

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NOTE. The Auditor's report was not handed in until after the Town Report was printed, which accounts for its not appearing in its proper place.